

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid 5.2

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMISSIONS

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS, 1892-

Abstract: Proclamations (1892-2011) made by the governor of the state of Missouri and filed with the secretary of state.

Extent: 23.2 cubic ft. (58 legal-size Hollinger boxes)

Physical Description: Paper

Location: MSA Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access Restrictions: No special restrictions.

Publication Restrictions: Copyright is in the public domain. Items reproduced for publication should carry the credit line: Courtesy of the Missouri State Archives.

Preferred Citation: [Item], [date]; Governors' Proclamations, 1893- ; Commissions; Office of Secretary of State, Record Group 5; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

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HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Proclamations are gubernatorial decrees that are generally ceremonial in nature, primarily for days of observance or commemoration of people or events, although they can also be substantive, such as offering rewards for fugitives or calling special elections. They are called out specifically in Article IV, Section 9, of the Missouri State Constitution, namely that on extraordinary occasions the governor "may convene the general assembly by proclamation, wherein he shall state specifically each matter on which action is deemed necessary."

Although proclamations existed in Missouri long before 1893, when this series begins, the ones here are those filed and signed by the secretary of state. These are the official versions, fulfilling the secretary of state's role of "authenticating all official acts of the governor, except the approval of laws" (10 CSR 30-1). For proclamations prior to 1893, see the multi-volume set published by The State Historical Society of Missouri called *The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri*.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Bibliography

The Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, Vols. I - XX (Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1922-1965).

Other Finding Aids

Some proclamations may be found in the finding aids for Record Group 3, Office of Governor. In early years, prior to 1893, these proclamations may be originals. In later years, they are more likely to be copies of the official version held by the secretary of state.

Related Material

See series *Governor's Proclamations Concerning Elections* (1946-1984) and *Governor's Proclamations Concerning Senatorial Districts* (1881-1931). Both are closed series, the former generally superseded by the ongoing series *Writs of Election* or found in the regular proclamation series. Information on senatorial districts may be found in the series *Records of the Reapportionment Commissions*. Although proclamations convening special sessions usually call out all matters to be considered, sometimes the proclamation will deal with the topic only generally and the details will be found in the series *Special Messages from the Governor*.

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONS, 1892-2011

Arrangement: Chronological either by date signed or date filed

Scope and Content

The proclamations found within this series are those signed by (or affixed with the signature of) the governor, signed and filed with the secretary of state, and affixed or impressed with the official state seal. Occasionally the original is missing and only a copy or draft remains in the file. Although there is a separate series designated as proclamations concerning elections, there are nonetheless many scattered among this regular series of proclamations.

Before the turn of the 20th century, the great majority of governor's proclamations in this series offered rewards for the arrest of fugitives. A number of the wanted were described as colored. Although the crime most often cited was murder, other crimes included ravishment, bigamy, forgery, embezzlement, voting violations, assault, train and bank robbery, horse stealing, lynching, death resulting from abortion, and arson. Early rewards, up to about 1913, may have supporting documentation, such as letters from prosecuting attorneys, copies of indictments, newspaper clippings, reward notices, or applications for the reward. Because rewards expired after only a year, there may be several renewals for the same criminal in successive years. The number of these rewards offered diminishes around the time of World War I and ceases entirely by World War II.

Other early proclamations set up quarantines for contagious livestock or declare a day of observance such as Thanksgiving. A few also asked the public to help relieve the suffering of victims of natural disasters, such as "cloud bursts," floods, and cyclones. Historical events are often noted, such as wars and the depressions. After World War II, the proclamations become generally more ceremonial, with the great majority proclaiming periods of observation, from "Ragweed Control Month" to "Barbershop Harmony Week" to "Miss Missouri Day." However, there are still substantive proclamations involving special elections, special sessions, and labor disputes in public utilities. In 1967-68, there are several oversize proclamations designating regional planning commissions.

Container List

Location	Box	Folders	Contents
10A/6/7	1	1 - 43	October 1892 - April 1897
10A/6/7	2	1 - 34	May 1897 - June 1900
10A/6/7	3	1 - 33	July 1900 - December 1903
10A/6/7	4	1 - 36	January 1904 - December 1906
10A/6/7	5	1 - 38	January 1907 - May 1910
10A/6/7	6	1 - 68	July 1910 - June 1917
10A/6/7	7	1 - 80	July 1918 - November 1925
10A/6/7	8	1 - 95	January 1926 - August 1938
10A/6/7	9	1 - 54	September 1938 - December 1943
10A/6/7	10	1 - 73	January 1944 - December 1950
10A/6/8	11	1 - 59	January 1951 - December 1955
10A/6/8	12	1 - 40	January 1956 - April 1959
10A/6/8	13	1 - 44	May 1959 - December 1962
10A/6/8	14	1 - 41	January 1963 - June 1966
10A/6/8	15	1 - 42	July 1966 - December 1969
10A/6/8	16	1 - 42	January 1970 - June 1973
10A/6/8	17	1 - 26	July 1973 - August 1975
10A/6/8	18	1 - 22	September 1975 - January 1977 (See box 52 for February - December 1977) January 1978 - May 1978
10A/6/8	19	1 - 18	June 1978 - November 1979
10A/6/8	20	1 - 13	December 1979 - December 1980
10A/6/8	21	1 - 16	January 1981 - April 1982
10A/6/9	22	1 - 12	May 1982 - April 1983
10A/6/9	23	1 - 12	May 1983 - April 1984
10A/6/9	24	1 - 12	May 1984 - April 1985
10A/6/9	25	1 - 14	May 1985 - June 1986
10A/6/9	26	1 - 12	July 1986 - June 1987
10A/6/9	27	1 - 14	July 1987 - August 1988
10A/6/9	28	1 - 14	September 1988 - October 1989
10A/6/9	29	1 - 14	November 1989 - December 1990
10A/6/9	30	1 - 16	January 1991 - April 1992
10A/6/9	31	1 - 15	May 1992 - July 1993
10A/6/9	32	1 - 7	August 1993 - April 1994
10B/6/1	33	1 - 7	May 1994 - December 1994
10B/6/1	34	1 - 7	January 1995 - August 1995
10B/6/1	35	1 - 7	September 1995 - April 1996

10B/6/1	36	1 - 7	May 1996 - December 1996
10B/6/1	37	1 - 7	January 1997 - July 1997
10B/6/1	38	1 - 8	August 1997 - March 1998
10B/6/1	39	1 - 7	April 1998 - October 1998
10B/6/1	40	1 - 9	November 1998 - July 1999
10B/6/1	41	1 - 9	August 1999 - April 2000
10B/6/1	42	1 - 8	May 2000 - December 2000
10B/6/1	43	1 - 8	January 2001 - August 2001
10B/6/1	44	1 - 7	September 2001 - February 2002
10B/6/2	45	1 - 6	March 2002 - July 2002
10B/6/2	46	1 - 7	August 2002 - February 2003
10B/6/2	47	1 - 7	March 2003 - August 2003
10B/6/2	48	1 - 8	September 2003 - April 2004
10B/6/2	49	1 - 8	May 2004 - December 2004
10B/6/2	50	1 - 12	January 2005 - December 2005
10B/6/2	51	1 - 12	January 2006 - December 2006
10B/6/2	52	1 - 16	February - December 1977
			January 2007 - May 2007
10B/6/2	53	1 - 11	June 2007 - April 2008
10B/6/2	54	1 - 12	May 2008 - April 2009
10B/6/2	55	1 - 11	May 2009 - March 2010
10B/6/2	56	1 - 10	April 2010 - January 2011
10B/6/3	57	1 - 10	February - November 2011
10B/6/3	58	1	December 2011